



**Mount Baker Park Play Area Renovation  
COMMUNITY MEETING #2 NOTES**

Thursday, August 7, 2014 – 6:30p – 7:45p  
Mount Baker Community Clubhouse  
2811 Mt Rainier Drive South Seattle, WA 98144

This is the first of three community meetings for the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy Improvement project at Mount Baker Park Play Area. Parks staff presented the schematic design for the renovated play area. The design incorporates input gathered at the first public meeting. At this meeting the participants had an opportunity to review the design and provide additional input. Community attendees were interacting with staff during the presentation with questions and comments. Parks will compile all input gathered from the community, incorporate into final design to be presented at the third public meeting, to be scheduled October 2014.

**Attendees:**

Jeron A. Gates, Project Planner of Seattle Parks and Recreation  
Shwu-Jen Hwang, Sr. Landscape Architect of Seattle Parks and Recreation  
Kevin Schmidt, Project Manager of Seattle Parks and Recreation  
23 Community Members (18 adults, 5 children)

**Design Background**

**Scope:**

Bring the play area into compliance with current play area safety standards and guideline of American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), as well as meets ADA requirements. Improve the connection between the play pods, include a new ADA path connecting to the sidewalk, bus stop and to parking by tennis courts;

**Budget:**

The total budget for the improvements is \$550,000 for the Park. Funding is made available through the King County 2013 Park Levy. The project budget cover all costs associated with the project including administration, design, permits, bidding and construction.

### **Highlights from 1<sup>st</sup> public meeting-May 22, 2014:**

- Playground was rebuilt in 1992 with Neighborhood Matching Funds. retaining walls surrounding playground part of original 1992 plan, design was to simulate river flow; narrow play area with divider logs next to Oak Tree resembles stream.
- Keep the existing zip line, has a ‘thrill factor’ not found with the newer zip lines (ex. Madison Park, ‘no thrill’). You can sit or stand. You can hold your kid and zip. zip line used by all ages-adults, children, keep as is, avoid zip line at Madison Park, is poor, no thrill. Mt. Baker has the only seated version, versus the others with ropes-difficult for children to grasp.
- Maintain tree groves surrounding play area (protect trees). It offers nice natural play experience. Integrate play in environment.
- Maintain existing character of park, ‘keep as is’.
- Majority of newer playgrounds starting to all look the same, generic in style.
- Access for wheelchairs into play areas is limited, improve with ramps, similar to Seward Park playground.
- Add wheelchair/elderly swing to play area.
- Improve play area surface, add rubber surface. Wood chip is not wheel chair accessible.
- Prefer subdued colors for play equipment, no bright primary colors, maintain existing muted natural appearance, fits with theme/character of existing area.
- Don’t make it a destination park, however keep it a neighborhood park.
- Provide sense of adventure.
- Preserve existing memorial chairs (donated ‘in memory of’).
- Preserve icons in cobblestones surrounding play area.
- Add monkey bars as a play feature.

### **History of Play Area/Play Area Safety Standards**

- Current play area was built in 1992 with support from Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Funds.
- Designed by Parks Landscape Architects when no such equipment existed on the market. Much of the play equipment then was custom designed.
- In the early 90’s, National Play Area Standards were developed in response to an influx of injuries on play areas.
- The standards we use are the American Society for Testing and Materials “Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use”, (ASTM 1487) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission “Handbook for Public Playground Safety”. The intent of these standards is to minimize the likelihood of life-threatening or debilitating injuries on play equipment in a public setting.
- Because the City doesn’t have the resources to analyze and test every piece of play equipment we install, we generally use certification by International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association, (IPEMA) to insure that the play equipment we use meets ASTM 1487.
- IPEMA carries out the structural tests as well as other engineering analysis on most manufacturers play equipment at its testing laboratory.

### Meeting Comments-August 7, 2014:

- How long will the playground be closed during renovation.  
**Response:** estimate 3-4 months.
- concept designs presented by Play Creation & Landscape Structures-LSI
  - favor the treehouse/fort structures, especially the simulated wood finish
  - prefer the naturalistic themes & style
- concept designs presented by Berlinger, Kompan, All Play Structures, Hags
  - appearance is too modern, doesn't fit with the site
  - like the suspension bridge, but would it be accessible by wheelchair?
  - like the cable climbing structure and tube slide
  - play structure looks similar to other playgrounds, want something unique
  - don't like the bamboo fort
- ADA Accessible pathway that connects play areas and entry points into park will be designed for vehicle maintenance access and will be 7-8' wide.
- Why is the preferred playground surface fiber (engineered wood) versus rubberized surface?  
**Response:** estimated costs for fiber is \$25K, rubberized is \$155K. Rubberized surface is a major expenditure, current construction budget is limited, rubberized surfaces will be installed at entry points for access to the play structures
- Since the construction budget is limited, what can be done to increase the budget to pay for rubberized surfaces under the entire play structures?  
**Response:** will note the question and explore options for rubberized surfacing.
- Priority should be on designing the play area & accessible structures, make it inclusive, playground could set the standards for other playgrounds, that is accessible for all
- Why aren't the current play structures not meeting safety codes? proposed new structures don't look all that different from the existing  
**Response:** safety evaluation identified several features not meeting current safety standards, existing structure is approximately 22 years old, average life for structures is around 15 years
- Why not retrofit the existing structures to meet safety standards/compliance?  
**Response:** retrofitting not an option and will not bring the area into compliance with safety standards, additionally materials for the structures are no longer manufactured
- Will the existing 'soup bowl, king & queens chairs' stay?  
**Response:** yes

Mount Baker Park Play Area Renovation Timeline	2014 Quarters				2015 Quarters			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Pro View</b> – Internal Parks review of proposed project elements.	★	★	★	★				
<b>Community Meeting #1</b> – Early discussions with community members and presentation of site analysis.		★						
<i>Schematic Design Complete</i>			★					
<b>Community Meeting #2</b> –Presentation of schematic design.			★					
<b>Community Meeting #3</b> - Presentation of final design				TBD				
<b>Pro View Technical Review</b> – Internal Technical Review of 65% Construction Drawings				★				
<b>Pro View Technical Review</b> – Internal Technical Review of 95% Construction Drawings					★			
<i>Design Development and Construction Drawings Complete</i>						★		
<b>Construction</b>							★	
<b>Project Close Out</b>								★

**For more information contact:**

Jeron A. Gates, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Planner

800 Maynard Avenue S. 3rd Floor, Seattle, WA, 98134-1336

Phone: (206) 255-4051

Email: [jeron.gates@seattle.gov](mailto:jeron.gates@seattle.gov)

Website: [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/mt\\_baker/](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/mt_baker/)

